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Contact: Darren Rogers
Senior Director, Communications & Media Services
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(502) 636-4461 (Office)
(502) 345-1030 (Mobile)
Darren.Rogers@KyDerby.com

SAM F. DAVIS TO REPLACE GREY ON 2016-17 ‘ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY’ SERIES

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Monday, Sept. 12, 2016) – The 38th running of the Sam F. Davis Stakes (Grade III) at Tampa Bay Downs will replace Canada’s Grey Stakes (GIII) on the list of 35-select races that comprise the 2016-17 “Road to the Kentucky Derby,” Churchill Downs officials announced Monday.

Since 2013, Churchill Downs Racetrack has used a sliding scale of points awarded to the Top 4 finishers in choice races to determine preference for its 20-horse Kentucky Derby field, which will be run for the 143rd time on Saturday, May 6, 2017.

As has been the case for the past three years, the Road to the Kentucky Derby “Prep Season” will commence at the home of the Kentucky Derby on Saturday, Sept. 17 with Churchill Downs’ \$150,000 Iroquois (GIII) at 1 1/16 miles. Points awarded during the “Prep Season” are worth 10-4-2-1, respectively, except for the Breeders’ Cup Juvenile, which is worth twice as much (20-8-4-2).

Mid-February’s Sam F. Davis, the 1 1/16-mile race during the “Prep Season” that serves as a steppingstone to the Tampa Bay Derby (GII), returns to the “Road to the Kentucky Derby” series for the first time since 2013. It will replace the Grey, a 1 1/16-mile juvenile race over Woodbine’s Tapeta surface in early October that has lured six or less starters in three of its last four runnings.

The 16 significant events that comprise the “Kentucky Derby Championship Series” during the 10-week run-up to the first Saturday in May remain unchanged from a year ago.

This is the fifth consecutive year that Churchill Downs Racetrack will utilize a point system to determine entrants for its famed \$2 million guaranteed Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (GI). At least 20 horses have entered the 1 1/4-mile classic for 3-year-old Thoroughbreds every year since 2004, and 16 of the last 18 years.

One spot in the Kentucky Derby starting gate could go to a Japan-based horse, thanks to a new partnership between Churchill Downs Incorporated and the Japan Racing Association (“JRA”). On Monday, the two entities announced the new “Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby,” which is separate from the 35-race “Road to the Kentucky Derby.”

The “Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby” features two one-mile dirt stakes races at Tokyo Racecourse: the **Cattleya Sho** for 2-year-olds on Nov. 26 and the **Hyacinth** for 3-year-olds to be run in early 2017. The horse that accrues the most points in the “Japan Road to the Kentucky” will have first preference to compete in the Kentucky Derby. Points awarded to the Top 4 finishing positions in the Cattleya Sho will be 40-16-8-4, respectively, while the Hyacinth will carry a point value of 50-20-10-5. The points were structured to avoid an automatic qualifier for the winner of one particular race over the other.

Elsewhere, a similar series remains in place to qualify for the Kentucky Derby’s sister race, the \$1 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) for 3-year-old fillies on Friday, May 5, 2016. The lone change to the 30-race “Road to the Kentucky Oaks” series is the removal of Woodbine’s Mazarine (GIII) for 2-year-old fillies.

2016-17 ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY SCHEDULE

35 Races

Kentucky Derby Prep Season (19 races)

Date	Race	Racetrack	Distance	1 st (Points)	2 nd (Points)	3 rd (Points)	4 th (Points)
Sept. 17	Iroquois	Churchill Downs	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Oct. 1	FrontRunner	Santa Anita	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Oct. 8	Champagne	Belmont Park	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Oct. 8	Breeders' Futurity	Keeneland	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Nov. 5	Breeders' Cup Juvenile	Santa Anita	1 1/16 Miles	(20)	(8)	(4)	(2)
Nov. 19	Delta Downs Jackpot	Delta Downs	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Nov. 26	Remsen	Aqueduct	1 1/8 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Nov. 26	Kentucky Jockey Club	Churchill Downs	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Dec. 10	Los Alamitos Futurity	Los Alamitos	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Jan. 7	Jerome	Aqueduct	1 Mile 70 Yards	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Jan. 7	Sham	Santa Anita	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Jan. 16	Smarty Jones	Oaklawn Park	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Jan. 21	Lecomte	Fair Grounds	1 Mile 70 Yards	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Jan. 28	Withers	Aqueduct	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Feb. 4	Holy Bull	Gulfstream Park	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Feb. 4	Robert B. Lewis	Santa Anita	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Feb. 11	+Sam F. Davis	Tampa Bay Downs	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Feb. 11	El Camino Real Derby	Golden Gate	1 1/8 Miles (S)	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Feb. 20	Southwest	Oaklawn Park	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)

Kentucky Derby Championship Series (16 races)

Date	Race	Racetrack	Distance	1 st (Points)	2 nd (Points)	3 rd (Points)	4 th (Points)
Feb. 25	Risen Star	Fair Grounds	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
March 4	Fountain of Youth	Gulfstream Park	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*March 4	Gotham	Aqueduct	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*March 11	Tampa Bay Derby	Tampa Bay Downs	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*March 11	San Felipe	Santa Anita	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
March 18	Rebel	Oaklawn Park	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
March 25	UAE Derby	Meydan Racecourse	1 3/16 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
March 25	Spiral	Turfway Park	1 1/8 Miles (S)	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
March 26	Sunland Derby	Sunland Park	1 1/8 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
April 1	Louisiana Derby	Fair Grounds	1 1/8 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
April 1	Florida Derby	Gulfstream Park	1 1/8 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 8	Wood Memorial	Aqueduct	1 1/8 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 8	Blue Grass	Keeneland	1 1/8 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 8	Santa Anita Derby	Santa Anita	1 1/8 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
April 15	Arkansas Derby	Oaklawn Park	1 1/8 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 15	Lexington	Keeneland	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)

2016-17 Road to the Kentucky Derby Changes

Date	Race	Racetrack	Distance	Top 4 Points	Change
Oct. 9	Grey	Woodbine	1 1/16 Miles (S)	0-0-0-0	Removed
Feb. 11	Sam F. Davis	Tampa Bay Downs	1 1/16 Miles	10-4-2-1	Added

+ New Race Included in Series.

* Race dates and distances to be announced by host track; date based on previous year's placement.

Schedule subject to change.

2016-17 JAPAN ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY SCHEDULE

2 Races

Date	Race	Racetrack	Distance	1 st (Points)	2 nd (Points)	3 rd (Points)	4 th (Points)
Nov. 26	Cattleya Sho	Tokyo Racecourse	1 Mile	(40)	(16)	(8)	(4)
TBA	Hyacinth	Tokyo Racecourse	1 Mile	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)

HOW TO GET INTO THE KENTUCKY DERBY STARTING GATE – The Road to the Kentucky Derby is a 35-race series that awards points to the Top 4 finishers in each race. The top point earners will earn a spot in the starting gate for the 143rd running of the \$2 million Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (Grade I) on Saturday, May 6, 2017. The Kentucky Derby field has been limited to 20 starters since 1975. At least 20 horses have entered the 1 ¼-mile race for 3-year-olds every year since 2004, and 16 of the last 18 years.

JAPAN ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY – For 2016-17, Churchill Downs Incorporated has partnered with the Japan Racing Association to create a series of races in Japan that could annually produce a starter in the Kentucky Derby. The new “Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby” – which is separate from the 35-race “Road to the Kentucky Derby” series – includes two one-mile dirt stakes races at the famed Tokyo Racecourse: the Cattleja Sho for 2-year-olds on Nov. 26 and the Hyacinth for 3-year-olds to be run in early 2017. One position in the Kentucky Derby starting gate will be awarded to the horse that accrues the most points in the “Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby” and accepts an invitation to compete. If the top point-earner declines, the horse with the second-most points may accept and so on.

TIEBREAKERS – If two or more horses have the same number of points, the tiebreaker is earnings in non-restricted stakes races. In the case of remaining ties, the additional starter(s) and/or also-eligible horses shall be determined by lifetime earnings. In the case of remaining ties, the additional starter(s) and/or also-eligible horses shall be determined by lot (aka a “shake”).

FILLIES – If a filly wants to run in the Kentucky Derby she can, but she’ll have to earn her way into the field by accumulating points against open company just like the rest of the colts and geldings. Additionally, any points earned by a filly in the “Road to the Kentucky Derby” series against open company will be credited to her point total in the “Road to the Kentucky Oaks” series.

DEAD-HEATS – In the event of a dead-heat (tie) in a “Road to the Kentucky Derby” race, those horses will divide equally the points they would have received jointly had one beaten the other.

SPLIT DIVISIONS – In the event a “Road to the Kentucky Derby” race is split into divisions and each division awards its originally published purse money, points will be awarded as scheduled for each division. If the originally published purse is halved for each division, points will be halved as well.

NOMINATIONS – Horses born in 2014 can be made eligible to run in the 2017 Kentucky Derby and Triple Crown with a \$600 early payment due by Jan. 14, 2017. A late period for nominations at \$6,000 each will be open Jan. 15, 2017 through March 20, 2017. A horse not nominated to the Triple Crown with sufficient points may be supplemented at the time of entry for \$200,000. In addition to the Triple Crown nomination fee, owners must pay \$25,000 to enter the Derby by 10 a.m. ET on Wednesday, May 3, 2017, and an additional \$25,000 to start.

POST POSITION DRAW – The Kentucky Derby post position draw – a traditional “pill pull” in which horses’ entry blanks are pulled simultaneously with a numbered pill to determine what stall a horse will break from the starting gate – will be held at Churchill Downs on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 from 5:30-6 p.m. ET (live on NBCSN). Up to 24 horses may enter the race and four horses can be listed as “also eligible” and would be ranked in order accordingly; they could draw into the field should any horse(s) be scratched before scratch time on Friday, May 5, 2017 at 9 a.m. ET.

PRIZE MONEY – The Kentucky Derby winner will receive a gold trophy plus an estimated \$1.24 million payday. A total of \$400,000 will be awarded to the runner-up, \$200,000 to third, \$100,000 to fourth and \$60,000 to fifth.

BACKGROUND – Churchill Downs abandoned the graded stakes earnings criteria for the 2013 Kentucky Derby (used from 1986-2012) and proactively adopted a tiered point system to determine which horses would have preference for America’s greatest race. Today, a sliding scale of points is awarded to the Top 4 finishers in select races, and at the series’ end, the top point earners get first crack to start in the Kentucky Derby.

ABOUT THE DERBY – To have a horse draped in the garland of roses while raising the solid gold trophy high atop the Kentucky Derby winner’s stand is the Holy Grail for horsemen around the world. Restricted to 3-year-old Thoroughbreds, horses only have one chance to win the Kentucky Derby, and it’s quite an accomplishment just to receive a berth in the starting gate. Approximately 22,000 Thoroughbreds were foaled in North America in 2014, and if history is any indication, about one percent of the crop will be nominated to next spring’s Triple Crown. Only 20 will be allowed to “Run for the Roses,” as the Derby field has been limited to 20 starters since 1975. At least 20 horses have entered the race since 2004, and 16 of the last 18 years. Once a horse earns its coveted Kentucky Derby berth, it, in most cases, will race the extended 1 ¼-mile distance for the first time. A combination of speed and the stamina it takes to complete the final eighth of a mile in the Derby often determines a win or loss.

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2016 FINAL LEADERBOARD – 1. Gun Runner (151), 2. **Nyquist** (130), 3. Exaggerator (126), 4. Outwork (120), 5. Brody's Cause (114), 6. Creator (110), 7. Lani (100), 8. Mor Spirit (84), 9. Mohaymen (80), 10. Danzing Candy (60), 11. Destin (51), 12. Suddenbreakingnews (50, \$637,000), 13. Oscar Nominated (50, 321,360), 14. Shagaf (50, \$270,000), 15. Whitmore (44, \$400,000), 16. Tom's Ready (44, \$270,670), 17. My Man Sam (40, \$200,000), 18. Majesto (40, \$190,000, \$239,500), 19. Trojan Nation (40, \$190,000, \$213,290), 20. Mo Tom (32, \$268,326), AE 21. Laoban (32, \$142,000) and AE 22. Cherry Wine (25, \$145,000).

2016-17 ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY OAKS

30 Races

Kentucky Oaks Prep Season (15 races)

Date	Race	Racetrack	Distance	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Sept. 17	Pocahontas	Churchill Downs	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Oct. 1	Chandelier	Santa Anita	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Oct. 7	Alcibiades	Keeneland	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Oct. 8	Frizette	Belmont Park	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Nov. 5	BC Juvenile Fillies	Santa Anita	1 1/16 Miles	(20)	(8)	(4)	(2)
Nov. 19	Delta Downs Princess	Delta Downs	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Nov. 26	Demoiselle	Aqueduct	1 1/8 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Nov. 26	Golden Rod	Churchill Downs	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Dec. 10	Starlet	Los Alamitos	1 1/16 Miles	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Jan. 7	Santa Ynez	Santa Anita	6 1/2 Furlongs	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Jan. 21	Busanda	Aqueduct	1 Mile 70 Yards	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Jan. 21	Silverbulletday	Fair Grounds	1 Mile 70 Yards	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Feb. 4	Forward Gal	Gulfstream Park	7 Furlongs	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
*Feb. 4	Las Virgenes	Santa Anita	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)
Feb. 11	Martha Washington	Oaklawn Park	1 Mile	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)

Kentucky Oaks Championship Series (15 races)

Date	Race	Racetrack	Distance	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Feb. 25	Rachel Alexandra	Fair Grounds	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*Feb. 25	Busher	Aqueduct	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*March 4	UAE Oaks	Meydan Racecourse	1 3/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
March 4	Davona Dale	Gulfstream Park	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
*March 4	Santa Ysabel	Santa Anita	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
March 11	Honeybee	Oaklawn Park	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
March 25	Bourbonette Oaks	Turfway Park	1 Mile (S)	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
March 26	Sunland Park Oaks	Sunland Park	1 1/16 Miles	(50)	(20)	(10)	(5)
April 1	Fair Grounds Oaks	Fair Grounds	1 1/16 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
April 1	Gulfstream Park Oaks	Gulfstream Park	1 1/8 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 8	Ashland	Keeneland	1 1/16 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 8	Gazelle	Aqueduct	1 1/8 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 8	Santa Anita Oaks	Santa Anita	1 1/16 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
April 14	Fantasy	Oaklawn Park	1 1/16 Miles	(100)	(40)	(20)	(10)
*April 16	Beaumont	Keeneland	7 Furlongs	(10)	(4)	(2)	(1)

2016-17 Road to the Kentucky Derby Changes

Date	Race	Racetrack	Distance	Top 4 Points	Change
Oct. 8	Mazarine	Woodbine	1 1/16 Miles (S)	0-0-0-0	Removed

* Race dates and distances to be announced by host track; date based on previous year's placement.
Schedule subject to change.

TIEBREAKERS – If two or more horses have the same number of points, the tiebreaker is earnings in non-restricted stakes races. In the case of remaining ties, the additional starter(s) and/or also-eligible horses shall be determined by lifetime earnings. In the case of remaining ties, the additional starter(s) and/or also-eligible horses shall be determined by lot (aka a “shake”).

DEAD-HEATS – In the event of a dead-heat (tie) in a “Road to the Kentucky Oaks” race, those horses will divide equally the points they would have received jointly had one beaten the other.

ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY POINTS VS. MALES – If a filly wants to run in the Kentucky Derby she can, but she'll have to earn her way into the field by accumulating points against open company just like the rest of the colts and geldings. Additionally, any points earned by a filly in the “Road to the Kentucky Derby” series against open company will be credited to her point total in the “Road to the Kentucky Oaks” series.

SPLIT DIVISIONS – In the event a “Road to the Kentucky Oaks” race is split into divisions and each division awards its originally published purse money, points will be awarded as scheduled for each division. If the originally published purse is halved for each division, points will be halved as well.

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NOMINATIONS – Fillies born in 2014 can be made eligible to run in the 2017 Longines Kentucky Oaks with a \$200 early payment due by Feb. 18, 2017. A late period for nominations at \$1,500 each will close Wednesday, April 12, 2017. A supplemental nomination of \$30,000 may be made at the time of entry. In addition to the Oaks nomination fee, owners must pay \$5,000 to enter the Oaks by 10 a.m. ET on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, and an additional \$5,000 to start.

POST POSITION DRAW – The Longines Kentucky Oaks post position draw – a traditional “pill pull” in which horses’ entry blanks are pulled simultaneously with a numbered pill to determine what stall a horse will break from the starting gate – will be held in The Parlay Media Briefing Room on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 11 a.m. ET. Up to 18 horses may enter the race and four horses can be listed as “also eligible” and would be ranked in order accordingly; they could draw into the field should any horse(s) be scratched before scratch time on Friday, May 5, 2017 at 9 a.m. ET.

PRIZE MONEY – The Kentucky Oaks winner will receive a silver trophy plus an estimated \$564,200 payday. A total of \$182,000 will be awarded to the runner-up, \$91,000 to third, \$45,500 to fourth; \$27,300 to fifth; and \$10,000 each to sixth through last.

BACKGROUND – Churchill Downs abandoned the graded stakes earnings criteria for the 2013 Longines Kentucky Oaks (used from 1986-2012) and proactively adopted a tiered point system to determine which horses would have preference for the 1 1/8-mile race. Today, a sliding scale of points is awarded to the Top 4 finishers in select races, and at the series’ end, the Top 14 point earners nominated to the Longines Kentucky Oaks get first crack to start in the Kentucky Derby’s sister race.

2016 FINAL LEADERBOARD – 1. Terra Promessa (150), 2. Lewis Bay (130), 3. Land Over Sea (128), 4. Weep No More (100, \$340,000), 5. Go Maggie Go (100, \$151,900), 6. **Cathryn Sophia** (80), 7. Mo d’Amour (70), 8. Venus Valentine (50, \$132,275), 9. Mokat (50, \$112,000), 10. Rachel’s Valentina (48), 11. Royal Obsession (45), 12. Dream Dance (44), 13. Taxable (40, \$80,000), 14. Paola Queen (40, \$49,000) and AE 15. Dothraki Queen (20).

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